



Community Appearance Commission

Minutes

August 2, 2006

The regular meeting of the Salisbury Community Appearance Commission was called to order Wednesday, August 2, 2006, at 4 p.m. by Barbara Perry, Chair, in the Council Chamber, 217 South Main Street, Salisbury, North Carolina. The following members were present and absent:

Present: Cindee Bridges, Greta Connor, Judy Kandl, Barbara Perry, Sara Robinson, Bill Safrit, and Tom Wolpert

Absent: Suzette Davis, Barbara Lawther, Chad Morgan, Johnny Safrit,

Staff: Lynn Raker, and Diana Moghrabi

Barbara Perry, Chair, called the meeting to order. The minutes of the June meeting were approved as published. The financial report was approved as submitted.

GUEST SPEAKER

- Jody Elff will speak about his art and will perform a demonstration to a larger audience in the near future.

Betty Dan Spencer brought her concerns about the condition of the Dixonville Cemetery before the CAC. (Some death records refer to it as the East Side or East End Cemetery) She has done extensive research relative to this site and other cemeteries in Salisbury. Cemeteries are important to our heritage in Salisbury and this one to the African-American history in our community. The City of Salisbury has always owned the property, but there is not a plat of the burials. Kelsey Funeral Home is thought to have a map of their burials. It is difficult to research black history; most people did not have obituaries. Mrs. Kelsey did write a column called Negro News that sometimes covered a death.

Established on September 30, 1874, as a colored cemetery, the City of Salisbury purchased one acre of the property for \$125. In 1881 the cemetery expanded by another acre. In 1914 North Carolina passed a law that required deaths to be recorded. The last recorded burial found appears to be in 1961. This was the time of urban renewal.

The City of Salisbury mows the two acres of 366 documented burials; many of the markers have been overgrown by grass. Betty Dan remembers rows of markers in this cemetery when she was a child; only a few are now visible. It is her primary desire that the markers be uncovered and repaired like the project that revived the Old English Cemetery. She has

received an estimate of \$750 to pay for the repair of the tombstones. Salisbury needs to set aside funds for cemeteries throughout the city.

Lynn Raker said that \$10,000 had been made available through CDBG funds for Dixonville Cemetery improvements, but that money is not for marker repairs.

Greta Connor and Betty Dan Spencer suggested some individuals who may be interested in working a project like this who come from the area. (Sandra Russell, Emily Perry, Fred Evans, Donald Graham, Mitchell Funeral Home) A task force could come together to decide what the priorities are; the restoration of the existing stones and uncovering of the flat stones are most likely a priority. This committee could make a recommendation to staff and City Council for restoration using the Old English Cemetery as an example of what can be done.

Sara Robinson suggested pursuing the site as a designated landmark. This would be an ideal site for public art. All agreed that this cemetery is important to the history of Salisbury.

Greta Connor made a MOTION to take the Dixonville Cemetery restoration under advisory and to study the issue. Bill Safrit seconded the motion with all members voting AYE.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Art in Public Places

- Barbara Perry reported that the installation of the first historic marker, Theo Buernbaum, was successful with a public ceremony July 7. The committee is ready to install 12 more this fall. Donations have come from the Woodson Foundation, The Proctor Foundation, Edward and Susan Norvell, and funds allocated by the City of Salisbury.
- Artist Bill Culbertson, the artist for the Gateway project, visited Salisbury July 13 and 14. He met with the Public Art Committee, Taylor Clay, and the NCDOT. A subcommittee will devise a new timeline for fundraising.

Funds have been allocated and brochures will be printed to highlight the first installation of markers, along with the Freedman's Cemetery, The Depot Street Mosaic, and The Fisher Street Mural.

- The Loft Tour is on hold.

Neighborhoods & Education Committee

- The regular meeting of the committee did not meet in July.
- In the 700-800 block of Kerr Street, there is an issue about eliminating on-street parking. The concern is that this would lend to people parking in yards and become an appearance issue. Many residents wish to see the ordinance for not parking in front lawns moved

forward. The plan is to bring the new Land Development Ordinance before City Council in November. A schedule for this review has been distributed.

- Jersey City is asking for their neighborhood entry sign. The consensus of the CAC members is that the signs need to be installed in the three promised areas as soon as possible. No more delays. The CAC does not want to wait on a consultant on the issue of City of Salisbury's "branding." The commission and residents are unified to move ahead immediately. The funding is in place. The neighborhoods need to see some action.

Bill Safrit made a MOTION and all agreed to install the three signs to designate an entrance to Jersey City, Fairview Heights, and Park Avenue. (7-0) This is to be a priority.

- The regular meeting of the Neighborhoods and Education Committee will be Wednesday, August 30, at 4 p.m.
- The Neighborhood Alliance Housing Subcommittee did meet in July and minutes of the meeting were included in the CAC packets. Karen Barbee of the Salisbury Police Department made a presentation on the Police Department's role in nuisance abatement and housing.

Landscaping

- There will be a meeting of the Landscape Committee Tuesday, August 22, at noon. Please call so sandwiches can be ordered at a cost of \$5 each. First floor conference room, City Hall.
- The Catawba Dr. nomination is not looking so good. There is no residential winner at this time.
The new bank at Statesville Blvd and Jake Alexander Blvd. is a nomination for commercial winner. Manning Park is also a nomination. Rowan Public Library-Master Gardeners is the winner this month.

Judy Kandl nominated 307 Wiley Ave.

Municipal Service District (MSD) and Innes Street Improvement Grants (ISG)

- City Council allocation for 2006-07: \$22,000 MSD and \$25,000 ISG.
- We have received some applications and will need to set up committee meeting soon. One in particular, for Bill's Bakery, needs a quick decision so they can start their work. Their application was reviewed and approved for \$5,000 last spring, but they withdrew it when they realized they could not complete the work by June 30. The committee members present recommended we go ahead and approve their application for \$5,000 so they can begin the project.

- Owner of Kluttz Drug building (Spanky's) called about an MSD grant. However, they are already well into their project. Apparently he had talked to Joe Morris in July about a grant, and Joe told him he would need to wait until Lynn returned from vacation. Lynn was not aware of the conversation until the owner called yesterday. Lynn suggested they submit an application immediately for work not yet started, but the owner said they were too far along. The committee and other CAC members praised the owner for all he has done for downtown Salisbury, but felt strongly that we need to follow our guidelines and not risk establishing a precedent funding projects after they are underway.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6 p.m. The next regular CAC meeting will be September 6, 2006.

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